

TABLE 24. Median age of doctorate recipients, by broad field of study, sex, citizenship, and race/ethnicity: 2009

Field of study and demographic characteristics	Median age at doctorate ^a (years)	% distribution (in age)						
		All	25 and under	26–30	31–35	36–40	41–45	Over 45
All fields ^b	32.2	100.0	0.6	38.9	30.4	13.5	6.0	10.5
Life sciences ^c	31.3	100.0	0.4	45.9	32.0	11.1	3.9	6.7
Physical sciences ^d	30.2	100.0	1.3	56.7	29.0	8.2	2.6	2.2
Social sciences ^e	32.4	100.0	0.4	37.5	32.6	15.1	6.0	8.4
Engineering	30.5	100.0	1.2	54.0	30.3	9.1	2.6	2.7
Education	40.5	100.0	0.1	10.1	21.4	20.2	13.6	34.6
Humanities	34.5	100.0	D	21.0	37.7	19.1	9.0	13.0
Other non-S&E fields	36.1	100.0	D	18.0	31.2	20.7	11.6	18.1
Sex								
Male	32.0	100.0	0.7	40.5	31.9	13.8	5.7	7.4
Female	32.6	100.0	0.5	37.2	28.7	13.1	6.4	14.1
Citizenship								
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	32.7	100.0	0.6	38.0	26.3	13.6	7.1	14.4
Temporary visa holder	31.7	100.0	0.7	41.0	39.7	13.2	3.6	1.8
Race/ethnicity (U.S. citizens and permanent residents)								
American Indian/Alaska Native	38.0	100.0	D	23.6	20.8	17.4	8.3	29.2
Asian	31.8	100.0	1.1	40.6	32.0	14.0	5.9	6.4
Black	36.7	100.0	D	24.3	22.6	18.5	10.7	23.7
Hispanic ^f	34.1	100.0	0.3	29.3	30.9	15.2	7.7	16.6
White	32.3	100.0	0.5	39.7	25.6	12.9	6.8	14.3
Two or more races	32.3	100.0	0.8	40.8	27.9	13.3	6.2	11.0

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Includes only doctorate recipients with a valid year of birth.^b Includes those of unknown citizenship, unknown race/ethnicity, and Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders not shown separately.^c Includes agricultural sciences/natural resources, biological/biomedical sciences, and health sciences.^d Includes mathematics and computer and information sciences.^e Includes psychology.^f Persons reporting Hispanic ethnicity, whether singly or in combination with one or more races, are included in the respondent-selected Hispanic ethnicity category.

NOTE: Due to rounding, the sum of percentages may not equal to 100.

SOURCE: NSF/NIH/USED/USDA/NEH/NASA, 2009 Survey of Earned Doctorates.